

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An information processing method comprising the steps of:

receiving at a ~~printing-processing~~ system, through a network, data including both processing data to be information-processed and electronic money data of an electronic money issuer including an amount of issued electronic money that is necessary for payment for information processing of said processing data and information on the electronic money issuer for determining whether the electronic money data is valid, wherein the processing data and the electronic money data are attached together, and wherein the issued electronic money has been determined to be exchangeable with actual currency by a payment institution;

making a request, by said ~~processing printing~~ system, to determine whether the received electronic money data is valid or not;

determining, by said processing system, whether a received result of electronic money validation corresponds to the processing data; and

when the received electronic money data is confirmed to be valid and the received result of electronic money validation is confirmed to correspond to the processing data, automatically starting the processing of the processing data to be information-processed, at said ~~processing printing~~ system.

2. (Currently Amended) An information processing method comprising the steps of:

receiving at a ~~printing-processing~~ system, through a network, both a) processing data to be information-processed and b) electronic money data of an electronic money issuer including an amount of issued electronic money that is necessary for payment for information processing of said processing data and information on the electronic money issuer for determining whether the electronic money data is valid, wherein the data to be information-processed and the electronic money data are attached together, and wherein the issued electronic money has been determined to be exchangeable with actual currency by a payment institution;

relating, at said processing ~~printing~~-system, the received data to be information-processed with the electronic money data by which payment for information processing is made;

making a request, by said processing ~~printing~~-system, to determine whether the received electronic money data is valid or not;

determining, by said processing system, whether a received result of electronic money validation corresponds to the processing data; and

when the received electronic money data is confirmed to be valid and the received result of electronic money validation is confirmed to correspond to the processing data, performing the processing of the data to be information-processed ~~which is related to the validated electronic money data~~, at said processing ~~printing~~ system.

3. (Currently Amended) An electronic payment method comprising the steps of:

simultaneously receiving at a ~~printing-processing~~ system, through a network, processing data to be information-processed attached together with electronic money data of an electronic money issuer including an amount of issued electronic money that is necessary for payment for information processing of said processing data and information on the electronic money issuer for determining whether the electronic money data is valid, wherein the issued electronic money has been determined to be exchangeable with actual currency by a payment institution;

~~associating, at said printing system, the processing data to be information-processed~~ with the electronic money data by which payment for information processing is made;

making a request, by said ~~processing printing~~ system, to determine whether the received electronic money data is valid or not;

determining, by said processing system, whether a received result of electronic money validity corresponds to the processing data; and

when the received electronic money data is confirmed to be valid, and the received result of electronic money validity is confirmed to correspond to the processing data, starting the processing of the data ~~which is associated with the validated electronic money data,~~ at said ~~printing-processing~~ system.

4. (Currently Amended) A system for making payment by electronic money comprising:

a user side subsystem including a user's terminal,

an electronic money issuer side subsystem including an electronic money issuing server, and

a processor side subsystem including a data processor that performs a processing based on processing request data from the user,

wherein the user side subsystem, the electronic money issuer side subsystem and the processor side subsystem are connected to one another through a network,

wherein the user side subsystem transmits both the processing request data and electronic money data of the electronic money issuer including an amount of electronic money issued by the electronic money issuer side subsystem that is necessary for payment for processing of the processing request data and information on the electronic money issuer for determining whether the electronic money data is valid, wherein the processing request data and the electronic money data are attached together and transmitted to the processor side subsystem, and wherein the issued electronic money has been determined to be exchangeable with actual currency by a payment institution.

the processor side subsystem transmits the electronic money data to the electronic money issuer side subsystem,

the electronic money issuer side system determines whether the electronic money data is valid or not, and

the processor side subsystem determines whether a received result of electronic money data validation is for the electronic money data that is attached to the processing request data, and if the result of the electronic money data validation is determined to be for the electronic money data that is attached to the processing

request data, performs the processing based on the processing request data in accordance with a result of the electronic money data validation and transmits a request for payment for the processing to the electronic money issuer side subsystem.

5. (Currently Amended) An electronic money processor comprising:
a receiving member which receives both a) processing request data transmitted from a user through a network and based on which a processing requested by the user is executed, and b) electronic money data of an electronic money issuer transmitted from the user through the network and including an amount of issued electronic money that is necessary for payment for processing said processing request data and issued by an electronic money issuer and information on the electronic money issuer for determining whether the electronic money data is valid, wherein the processing request data and the electronic money data are attached together, and wherein the issued electronic money has been determined to be exchangeable with actual currency by a payment institution;

a memory in which the processing request data received by the receiving member is stored;

a transmitter which transmits the electronic money data received by the receiving member to the electronic money issuer to check whether the electronic money data is valid or not; and

an execution controller which determines whether a result of electronic money data validation is for the electronic money data that is attached to the processing request data, controls execution of the processing based on the

processing request data corresponding to the electronic money data and stored in the memory in accordance with the result of the electronic money data validation if the result is determined to be for the electronic money data that is attached to the processing request data~~a result of the check of validity of the electronic money data.~~

6. (Previously Presented) An electronic money processor as claimed in claim 5, wherein when the electronic money data is not confirmed to be valid, said transmitter transmits warning information that the electronic money data is not confirmed to be valid, to the user who transmitted the electronic money data.

7. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus comprising the electronic money processor as claimed in claim 5, further comprising:

an image forming portion in which execution of the processing is based on the control of the processing request data by the execution control means of the electronic money processor.

8. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:
a receiving member which receives both a) print data transmitted from a user through a network, and b) electronic money data of an electronic money issuer corresponding to the print data transmitted from the user through the network and including an amount of electronic money issued by an electronic money issuer that is necessary for payment for processing said print data and information on the electronic money issuer for determining whether the electronic money data is valid, wherein the print data and electronic money data are attached together, and wherein

the issued electronic money has been determined to be exchangeable with actual currency by a payment institution;

a transmitter which transmits the electronic money data received by the receiving member to the electronic money issuer to check whether the electronic money data is valid or not; and

an image forming portion which processes the print data in accordance with a result of the check of validity of the electronic money data.

9. (Previously Presented) An information processing method according to claim 1, wherein the processing data and electronic money data are attached together in a data packet including header information and print control command.

10. (Previously Presented) An information processing method according to claim 2, wherein the data to be information-processed and electronic money data are attached together in a data packet including header information and print control command.

11. (Previously Presented) An electronic payment method according to claim 3, wherein the data to be information-processed and electronic money data are attached together in a data packet including header information and print control command.

12. (Previously Presented) A system for making payment according to claim 4, wherein the processing request data and electronic money data are

attached together in a data packet including header information and print control command.

13. (Previously Presented) An electronic money processor according to claim 5, wherein the processing request data and electronic money data are attached together in a data packet including header information and print control command.

14. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the print data and electronic money data are attached together in a data packet including header information and print control command.

15. (Currently Amended) An information processing method comprising:
receiving at a printing-processing system, through a network, job data including processing data to be information-processed and electronic money data of an electronic money issuer including an amount of electronic money that is necessary for payment for information processing of said processing data and information on the electronic money issuer for determining whether the electronic money data is valid;

separating, by said processing ~~printing~~-system, the processing data and the electronic money data;

making a request, at said processing ~~printing~~-system, to determine whether the electronic money data is valid;

determining, by said processing system, whether a received result of electronic money validation corresponds to the processing data; and

when the received electronic money data is confirmed to be valid and the received result is confirmed to correspond to the processing data, automatically starting the processing of the processing data to be information-processed at said processing printing system.

16. (Previously Presented) The electronic payment method according to claim 3, comprising:

associating the data to be information-processed and the electronic money data by designating a group identifier common to both the data to be information-processed and the electronic money data; and

separating the data to be information-processed and the electronic money data.

17. (Previously Presented) The system for making payment according to claim 4, wherein the processing request data and the electronic money data are designated by a group identifier common to both the processing request data and the electronic money data to allow separate processing of the processing request data and the electronic money data.

18. (Previously Presented) The electronic money processor according to claim 5, wherein the processing request data and the electronic money data are designated by a group identifier common to both the processing request data and

the electronic money data to allow separate processing of the processing request data and the electronic money data.

19. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the print data and the electronic money data are designated by a group identifier common to both the print data and the electronic money data to allow separate processing of the print data and the electronic money data.

20. (Previously Presented) The information processing method according to claim 15, wherein the processing data and the electronic money data are related by a group identifier common to both the processing data and the electronic money data.